SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — May 21, 1973

No 199

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

an immediate end to all US bombings on the liberated zone

IN the first days of May this year, the United States and the Saigon administration repeatedly sent their aircraft out to reconnoitre and attack many localities from Loc Ninh to Xa Mat deep in the territory of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Most serious was the concentration of many F.4s in prolonged activities over Loc Ninh on May 9.

—At 6.25 a.m. that day, two F.4s took turns in circling over Hoa Lu and Loc Tan areas, and hovered over Highway 13. One aircraft fired 4 rockets and a burst of 20mm cannon fire on Hoa Luc. The other plane dropped 4 demolition bombs and 2 CBU's on the same area.

— At 7.45 a.m., 2 other F.4s came up at an altitude of 2,500 metres, and hovered over Hoa Lu, Loc Tan, and Loc Ninh, and laid 14 demolition bombs and 2 CBUs on the northern part of Hoa Lu.

— At 9.20 a.m., 2 more F.4s intruded into the airspace of Loc Ninh, and fired 20mm cannon rounds on Hoa Lu.

— Again, at 2.35 p.m., 2 other F.4s bore down upon Hoa Lu and attacked it with rockets.

So, within the single day of May 9, many aircraft of the USAF conducted four attacks on Loc Ninh, an area administrated by the PRG. The region had been repeatedly spied on by reconnaissance aircraft in the previous days. These attacks by US aircraft caused many losses in lives and property to the population.

THE South Vietnamese people, the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam strongly denounce these direct military acts taken by the US government in serious violations of the sovereignty and security of the South Vietnamese people living under the control of the RSVN PRG.

These acts constitute an utterly brutal encroachment on Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol concerning the ceasefire in South Viet Nam and the Joint Military Commissions to which the US government is a signatory. The US government cannot deny its responsibility for these violations, since the repeated raids by US aircraft on Loc Ninh on May 9 were obviously calculated and premeditated acts.

Obviously, the US has not truly made up its mind to end its war of aggression, since it is directly violating the ceasefire and continuing its military involvement in Viet Nam. This certainly will lead to the danger of involving the US again in the conflict in Viet Nam and Indochina as before January 27, 1973.

This is an intolerable provocation to the South Vietnamese people, and an insolent challenge to the world public and the progressive opinion in the United States which are sternly condemning the United States for continuing its military involvement in Viet Nam and escalating the war in Cambodia. The South Vietnamese people remain vigilant at the sinister schemes of the US, and are determined to mete out due punishments to any violation of the Paris Agreement by the US and the Saigon administration and to defend their life and property and the liberated zone.

The South Vietnamese people, the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, demand strongly that the United States and the Saigon administration put a stop to all these acts and strictly implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and its Protocols.

The US government and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for all the serious consequences arising from their violations of the Agreement.

Repairing US-damaged roads in the liberated area after the restoration of peace

PRG 6 points widely acclaimed

REMARKABLY, the last fortnight has seen a warm widespread welcome given to the 6-point proposal of the PRG of the RSVN delegation to the April 25 Paris Consultative Conference of the two South Vietnamese parties, namely by the Vice-Chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, Fechr Lajos, Korean Vice-Premier Ho Dam, the Iraqi government, the Vice-President and Premier of Tanzania, the Foreign Ministers of the GDR, Romania, Poland and Sweden, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the Presidium of the Peace Council of Hungary, the Peace Committee of Burma, the Socialist Youth's International Congress, 106 Youth and Students' delegates of 44 countries and three international organizations, the Secretary General of the British Communist Party, Dhia Sheekhly, member of the Central Committee of the Iraqi Youth Union and the press of many countries.

In Sweden, John Takman, MP, described at the annual session of Parliament the PRG offer as a very sound basis for the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue and suggested that the Swedish government and Parliament give it prompt support.

In this consensus, Vice President Fecher Lajos said that "the PRG 6 points are consistent with the spirit of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam."

Jozef Czyrek, Polish acting Foreign Minister said:

"We welcome this sensible proposal of the PRG of the RSVN as it falls in line with the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam."

The 10th International Congress of Socialist Youth carried a resolution which said:

"The 10th Congress of the Union of International Socialist Youth is of the opinion that the 6 points put forth on April 25 by the PRG of the RSVN are a practical and constructive proposal as it paves the way for a prompt settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. The Congress gives full support to it and points out that the so-called proposal on elections made by Saigon is but a propaganda stunt aimed at hoodwinking public opinion."

106 Youth and Students' delegates from 44 countries and 3 international organizations participating in the friendship trip in the GDR stated:

"We unreservedly back the 6 points advanced by the RSVN PRG at the Consultative Conference held in Paris by the two South Vietnamese parties as it conforms to the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement and makes possible a sound political solution of the South Viet Nam problem."

The statement of the World Peace Committee of Burma regarded the overture as a mark of good will which shows the PRG readiness to fully implement the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam; it also meets the cherished aspirations of the Vietnamese people for peace, independence, democracy and national concord."

"The PRG proposal opens up new possibilities," the Soviet paper *Pravda* wrote in its April 29 issue, "to remove the obstacles now standing in the way of the execution of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The initiative of the PRG delegation to the La Celle Saint Cloud Conference may become a factor contributing promptly to improve the situation in South Viet Nam and to bring about a lasting peace there... This fresh initiative of the PRG shows the patriots' good will and eagerness to contribute to the prompt restoration of peace in South Viet Nam."

The review *World Romania* commented in its May 3 issue: "Only by ending the hostilities and handing over the civilian detainees, will there be an atmosphere favourable to the discussion of the political future of South Viet Nam." It criticized "the draft preliminary agreement" and the "schedule" attached thereto of the Saigon administration as follows: "The proposal of Saigon spells out its own ineffectiveness as it does not take into consideration the present situation, both sides' position and present and future basic objectives. While referring to the general election and setting up of the national council of national reconciliation and concord, it suggests an absurd schedule especially when Saigon wilfully overlooks the measures to thoroughly implement the peace agreement, thereby making its proposal an empty one."

DINH BA

A too transparent move

THESE last days Thieu's mouthpieces have been clamouring about Saigon's proposal for "general elections" made on May 3, 1973 at the Paris Two-party Consultative Conference. On May 4, Thieu's closest assistant Hoang Duc Nha lauded to the skies the "draft preliminary agreement" although it had been dismissed by wide segments of opinion as soon as it was made public.

In order to better deceive uninformed people, Saigon has shifted the responsibility on to the PRG for trying to elude the "general election" issue, "for reluctantly recognizing the South Vietnamese people's self-determination right," and "for preparing for a fresh military offensive," being "unable to face a general election in the next two years."

The Saigon junta has raised such ballyhoo to make believe that it is a staunch defender of the people's self-determination right and democratic freedoms.

But its moves, however cunning, are bound to peter out. Universal opinion has been well aware of the true nature of the successive Saigon administrations over the past twenty years. Suffice it to recall the slogans put up by people of the Western capitals Thieu went through in his recent trips. To everyone's knowledge, Washington and Ngo Dinh Diem joined hands to sabotage the consultative conference provided for by the 1954 Geneva Conference to discuss general elections for Viet Nam's reunification. Many figures in US and Saigon ruling circles, foreign journalists and news agency correspondents have stigmatized referendums, elections to Congress and presidential elections since Thieu came to power as "farces," "comedies," "antics" with proconsul Ellworth Bunker pulling the wires behind the scenes. And all that has been done with such repressive measures and cynicism that the Thieu regime is generally regarded as one of the world's worst dictatorships.

The millions of votes said to be cast in favour of Thieu, bloody police actions against voters, presidential candidates thrown into jails, Saigon Parliament invested by the army, those and other burlesque scenes have branded the Saigon regime. It is Thieu who has ordered his men to "kill VC wherever they can" after the cease-fire, set his face against national concord and obstinately refused to acknowledge the existence of a "third force." Less than three months after the Paris Agreement came into effect, over 30,000 police actions were mounted against patriots and thousands of them, men and women, young and old, apprehended. More often than not and in no few places the situation has grown worse than in war time: according to incomplete data, there have been 40,000 killed, over 4,500 wounded apart from 20,000 arrested and 10,000 dwellings destroyed.

While launching endless encroaching operations against the PRG-controlled areas, Saigon has not lived up to its pledge to return captured civilian personnel, thereby prolonging the sufferings of some hundreds of thousands of inmates in over 1,000 known and secret jails across the territory. Forbidden to move freely, to choose their place of residence, the inhabitants in the Saigon-controlled zone are living in the grip of an atrocious pacification program. Freedom of opinion and of the press, freedom of assembly and of political discussions have been flouted. Under such a regime, "general election" would be a sheer travesty of democracy.

And the US is encouraging Saigon's attempt to stage it. The White House thinks that the "general election" issue will enable Saigon to shirk more pressing ones such as strict observation of the cease-fire, return of political prisoners, ensurance of democratic liberties, which are the prerequisite of any truly free and democratic election. The Saigon rule thinks it is very clever of it to propose a general election under its present legislation—an initiative Thieu has certainly brought back from Saint Clemente—but it's a too apparent trick.

Mindful of the earnest aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, the NFL has since its founding raised their right to self-determination as one of its overriding points in its successive programs (the 1966 ten-point program and the 1967 political program) and in its overall solution tabled at the Paris Conference in 1969. In the said documents, the NFL consistently advocated free and democratic elections throughout South Viet Nam. As a democratic and people's power, the PRG proposed in the 1969 12-point Program of Action "the holding of general elections to set up a National Assembly, the elaboration of a democratic constitution fully reflecting the interests and aspirations of the entire people." This was embodied in its famous 1971 7 points and the 1972 clarifications of these points.

At the La Celle Saint Cloud Consultative Conference, the PRG delegation has put forward a 6-point program likely to put an end to its stalemate. The problem has been given a sound approach: only by strictly executing the cease-fire, by returning the captured civilian personnel, by ensuring democratic freedoms will the formation of a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and truly free and democratic elections in South Viet Nam be feasible.

The Saigon proposed general elections are nothing short of a swindle. By eliminating guarantees for free and democratic elections, it would amount to denying the people's right to self-determination, and legalizing a hated regime subservient to Washington.

The move is too transparent to take anybody in.

Mass demonstration in the liberated zone, urging the US government and the Saigon administration to strictly implement the Paris Agreement

IN THE LIBERATED AREAS

o The All-North Viet Nam Film Festival, in commemoration of the 20th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Film Studio created by a decree of President Ho Chi Minh, gave a warm reception to the new films produced by the *South Viet Nam Liberation Studio* in the past four years (1967-1972).

The Festival awarded the "Golden Lotus" Prize to 5 films of the *Liberation Studio* and *Liberation Army Studio* (namely "The Small Village on the Tra River," "The Hunters on Dak Sao Mountain," "The Highway Nine Victory," "The C-3 Girls" "Notes taken in the Delta" and the "Silver Lotus" Prizes to 10 other films of the *Liberation Studio*.

o Last February, more than 1,800 families consisting of nearly 10,000 people in Thoi Binh district and nearly 400 other families in Tran Van Thoi district (Ca Mau province) left their concentration centres and "strategic hamlets" for the areas under the PRG control.

With the revolutionary administration and local people's devoted all-round assistance, the returnees have quickly resettled down and taken part in the building and defence of their liberated homeland.

o The Long An Information and Cultural Service in the first half of February 1973, defying many difficulties, circulated 50,000 copies of the peace agreement and its protocols to tens of thousands of people in the province. In the same period, the service also sent mobile film projection and exhibition teams to cater for over 15,000 people.

The Duc Pho and Duc Hue districts farmers learned with great joy of the agreement. Many in the areas held by the enemy, braving the latter's ban, streamed to the liberated areas to attend film shows and exhibitions.

o In Vinh Thuan and Go Quao districts (Rach Gia), 46 more schools and classes have been opened recently. Most of the local villages have their primary and elementary schools attended by tens of thousands of children including those of the Saigon administrative personnel. The An Bien district Educational Service also ran more refreshment courses for the war dead armymen's and cadres' children, and trained teachers for the new schools.

o In the period under review, Loc Ninh district (Binh Phuoc province) also opened 13 schools and classes, for over 1,000 new pupils. In Loc Linh district town, 3 schools comprising 12 classes which were closed in wartime have been reopened for 570 children.

o 12 new schools and classes have been built in Bu Dop district town and its bordering villages. The number of schools and classes in the whole district in the past one month and a half has doubled that of last year. In many local villages, a large number of children of Thuong minority origin attended classes taught by native teachers.

o Over 270 families totalling thousands of people in Tra Vinh province last January levelled "strategic hamlets" and returned to the liberated areas.

In Cang Long, the returnees have completed the rice transplanting, sown nearly 150 kilos of seeds and quickly harvested hundreds of hectares of complementary crops. To prepare for the next crop, the local peasants have spent thousands of work days in water conservancy.

Alongside rice production, people also did away with US bomb devastation inflicted on their gardens and planted subsidiary crops and fruit trees.

o To defend the liberated areas, maintain peace and realize national concord, over 1,000 youths in Ca Mau enlisted in the army between January 28 and early March 1973.

o In less than two months after the cease-fire, the Quang Tri industrial and trade service helped the people in Gio Linh, Cam Lo, Trieu Phong and Hai Lang districts set up 52 more agencies for the retailing of over 200 commodities much in demand. To help production, the same service has in the past period distributed to the localities and agents in the province over two tons of vegetable seeds, dozens of tons of maize and ground nut seeds, over 50,000 ploughshare and pickaxes, and 100 tons of manure.

To stimulate trade, the industrial and trade service also purchased tens of kinds of products made by the local people.

It has also helped various districts and villages quickly restore 8 big markets namely the "Cau" Market, "Hom" Market (Gio Linh), "Phien Cam Lo" Market, "Thuoc" Market, "Chua" Market (Trieu Phong).

Thanks to those reopened markets and extensive network of agents the distribution of commodities has been improved and helped boost production and raise the people's living conditions.

in the cities

+ On the occasion of International Labour Day, many Trade Unions released denunciations of the Saigon administration's fascist ban on all workers' rallies and demonstrations on that day. A number of Trade Unions pressed for an end to lay-offs, correct application of regulations on cost of living allowances. Others urged that the Saigon administration and company owners respect the dignity of workers, especially of women workers and leave the workers free to set up their trade unions for the defence of their legitimate rights. The Saigon wharf workers' trade union has initiated a campaign against special agent boss Tran Quoc Buu's plot to get control of the workers.

+ The Federation of Saigon Trade Unions has sent to the Saigon authorities a petition for the ending of unfair and sweating methods used by employers. Minimum pays should be fixed to meet the most basic requirements of the workers, the system of contractions should be abolished to guarantee decent living and working conditions, the petition demanded.

+ In Nam Bo, transport workers have requested the Saigon administration to ensure their freedom of work, remove check posts on highways and put an end to threats and brutalities against bus drivers. Railway workers at Phu Yen resolutely opposed orders to transgress the liberated areas to build new tracks. They also urged the immediate release of workers arrested in the recent April 17 general strike.

+ On April 18, workers of Eternis Company made public a protest to the company's director against his indecent behaviour toward female workers. They also insisted that measures be taken by the Saigon administration to protect the latter's dignity.

+ 15 song and dance ensembles comprising 1,500 students and pupils of many Saigon colleges and high schools recently gathered at the "Youth Centre" for an "Evening For Peace." Peace songs were sung and the performance was made all the livelier by the use of traditional musical instruments.

+ Saigon newspapers announced on April 26 that Nguyen Van Thieu had signed a decree establishing nine High Courts in the areas under the Saigon administration's control to repress the movement for peace, democratic liberties, better living conditions and national concord. This crude violation of the Paris Agreement was strongly scored by all social sections who requested the Saigon authorities to respect all democratic liberties of the people and dismantle all concentration camps, prisons and tribunals set up by them.

+ On May 9 in Saigon, representatives of many religious bodies signed a manifesto against violations of the Paris Agreement by the Saigon administration, especially of the provisions relating to the cease-fire and of article 11 on fundamental democratic rights of the people. It urged the rapid formation of the three-segment National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, within the time-limit fixed by the Agreement and the immediate release by the Saigon authorities of people still detained on account of their participation in movements for peace and democracy.

Mme Ngo Ba Thanh's case—living indictment against Saigon regime

The hunger strike staged by Mme Ngo Ba Thanh is an appeal to public opinion at home and abroad for urgent actions to save hundreds of thousands of patriots from the Saigon administration's prisons.

Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, Chairman of the South Viet Nam Women's Movement for the Right to Live, has been conducting a hunger strike in prison for a month now in protest against Nguyen Van Thieu's claim that "there are no political prisoners in South Viet Nam," and she said she would continue the strike till she would be unconditionally set free.

Mme Ngo Ba Thanh's struggle not only highlights the virtues of a woman determined to defend her ideal of independence, freedom, peace and justice, but also lays stress on the imperativeness of the problem of return of civilian personnel still illegally detained by the Saigon administration.

Thieu's allegation that "there are no political prisoners in South Viet Nam" reveals the Saigon administration's wicked intention to keep in prison and liquidate not only the civilian personnel of the PRG but also those persons who stand on neither side, now still under its detention.

We firmly demand that the Saigon administration release Mme Ngo Ba Thanh immediately and return all the military and civilian personnel still detained by it.

Returns of captured civilian personnel

AT a place in Hoai An district, Binh Dinh, on April 30, the PRG handed over to the Saigon administration 294 civilian personnel captured, among them a district deputy chief of a provincial "pacification" detachment.

That return, too, was delayed for two days on account of the Saigon side's lack of good faith. Thus, to this date, 385 civilian detainees have been returned to the Saigon administration by the PRG.

The Saigon administration on the afternoon of May 11 returned to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam 225 more civilian personnel at the return site on the northern bank of Thach Han river, Quang Tri province.

The return was two days behind schedule due to hindrances put up by the Saigon side. This brings to more than six hundred the total number of civilian detainees returned to the PRG at the said site, less than the figure already agreed upon.

Among the new returnees, twenty eight asked to return to their native places. The representative of the PRG complied with their request and urged the Saigon side to take them to their native places and ensure their safety.

Disregarding the Paris Agreement, Saigon troops keep mounting raids every day to arrest civilians

In Saigon-controlled areas

Mounting movement for democratic liberties

ARTICLE 11 (b) of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has unequivocally listed 12 democratic liberties to be ensured for the South Vietnamese people, which are the minimum ones of a modern society.

At present, their achievement assumes special importance, both as a pressing need of the people of all walks of life irrespective of political conviction and creed and as a basis for the settlement of other issues with a view to guaranteeing peace and realizing national reconciliation and concord. Certainly enough, short of democratic freedoms, a political settlement, general elections and free speech and untampered choice of the masses' really trusted representatives are simply unthinkable. National reconciliation and concord is all the more so when contacts between people of the two zones are forbidden, the freedom of meeting and the freedom of the press are suppressed, the freedom of movement and the freedom of residence are threatened with abrogation and thousands of political activists are still detained or continue to be disposed of in the Saigon regime's jails, in defiance of the Paris Agreement.

First and foremost, the South Vietnamese people's present priorities are: an immediate end to all Saigon coercion, persecution, victimization, oppression, screening; enforcement of the freedom of residence, the freedom to earn one's living, the freedom of movement between the zones controlled by the two parties so that relatives can visit one another, fields and orchards in one side's areas belonging to people living in the other side's can be tended by their owners and graves of the near and dear can be taken care of, an age-old fine tradition of the Vietnamese; cancellation of all forms of censorship, a halt to seizures of newspapers and prompt and complete release of the people still held by the Saigon rule under political charges. As for those who have had to taken up residence abroad because of political persecution, facilities must be given to them to return and visit their native places, families and settle down at home if they wish.

But the Saigon regime so far has shown little regard for the pledges taken, for the people's feeling and aspiration. Apart from unlawful inroads into the PRG zone, murders, pillages, fellings of fruit trees and timber, devastation of gardens, it has been actively carrying on its "pacification" program, rounding up thousands of persons, encircling villages and hamlets, herding masses of people into "strategic hamlets" and "refugees' camps", and prohibiting visits between the two zones. It has even threatened those who stand for national concord and peace with the fascist "10-59" law of the Diem time.

Thieu's colours as a fascist despot have become more apparent with his disbandment of all opposition parties and maintenance of his own "Democratic" party and two others masterminded by himself. Recently, a series of criminal courts has been instituted in his areas to deal with the movement for peace, democratic freedoms, better living conditions and national concord. In addition to continued enforcement of law 007 directed against the home press, he has even manhandled native and foreign journalists having contacted the PRG military delegations and put a ban on their visits to the liberated areas. On April 26, 1973, his men arrested three foreign correspondents, Olivier Todd, Chantal Carpentier and Ron Moreau, and confiscated all their notes and films. Earlier, they had apprehended 2 US and 1 Mexican newsmen.

But Thieu's arbitrary measures have met with vigorous resistance from all the sections of the society in his zone.

In My Tho alone, there have been more than 87,000 attendances in actions in townships and localities against his violations of the Paris Agreement and suppression of democratic liberties. The March 25-26 show of strength and militant solidarity was one of the most typical. In Soc Trang, Bac Lieu as well as in Quang Tri, Ben Tre and other places, thousands of people came out against the Saigon regime, on the strength of the Paris Agreement, pulled down concentration centres and returned to their villages. In the Cao Dai Holy See in Tay Ninh, many protests have

been lodged with the International Teams for Supervision and Control against Saigon's breaches of the cease-fire, wanton shellings, and interference with the people's going about their work.

In response to Thieu's agents' enticement and forcing people to adhere to his "Democratic" Party and hustling votes for him, the inhabitants including dignitaries of the Hoa Hao and Cao Dai sects who refused to do persuasion work for Thieu among their followers, ridiculed his political organization as a fake one and declared to his men's face that they would only "cast their ballots for those who really care for the people."

Local and foreign pressmen, many politicians, intellectuals and organizations in Saigon have sent petitions to Mr Nixon, the US Congress and the Saigon administration itself against the latter's violations of the freedom of the press, for ensurance of the people's democratic liberties, for the Thieu rule's compliance with the Paris Agreement's provisions on the people's right to self-determination and for the immediate release of advocates of national independence, sovereignty, unity and peace.

The drive for democratic freedoms in the Saigon-controlled areas is gaining momentum. As the PRG delegation spokesman to La Celle Saint Cloud Consultative Conference has commented, "Democratic liberties are the South Vietnamese people's very right to live, so that movement is likely to sweep away all obstacles, foil all manoeuvres and tricks of the reactionary and fascist forces represented by Thieu, and advance irresistibly toward its objectives."

NGOC BAO

On the occasion of President Ho Chi Minh's 83rd Birthday

UNCLE HO AND SOUTH VIET NAM

Uncle Ho always reserved to South Vietnamese heroes and valiant combatants his boundless affection and solicitude

HIS birth place is Kim Lien village, Nam Dan district, Nghe An province, well known for its revolutionary spirit and Nghe-Tinh Soviet.

But there is another native land he deeply loved and would think of day and night with boundless compassion and pride : South Viet Nam.

By the end of 1911, in Saigon harbour, young Nguyen Van Ba, (then the name of Ho Chi Minh) boarded the *Amiral Latouche Tréville* ship of the French Company *Messageries Réunies* to find abroad a way to liberate his country. Thirty years later, he returned to his homeland, kissed in tears the earth of the Viet Bac northern mountain resistance base. From then on, he never set foot again on the dear land of South Viet Nam. Poet **TO HUU** feels the torment of the Great Patriot :

I understand. The night wind is whispering upstairs
In his bed, Uncle Ho is tossing about
Of South Viet Nam he is thinking and thinking

Because in South Viet Nam

Blood is not yet dried, blood is shed again
O ! Martyrized South Viet Nam !
For twenty five years, down thou hast not laid arms
The first to set out and the last to return
Tempered as thou art by hardships and privations

South Viet Nam is the blood of Viet Nam's blood, the flesh of Viet Nam's flesh, Uncle Ho once said. For long years until his last breath, his endless thoughts and infinite love were for South Viet Nam. He took care of, and was much preoccupied by, the education of Southern children regrouped to the north. He would water everyday the VÙ SỮA tree (Chrysothyllum cainito) presented him by the people from the South. Tears filled his eyes on learning of the killings of our Southern countrymen by the Yankees and their henchmen. He deferred the *Golden Star Order* — the highest decoration — bestowed on him by the DRVN National Assembly : *When our Fatherland is re-united, North and South are under the same roof, our countrymen in the South will then give me that precious reward...* he said.

The more he suffered from the great sacrifices of his Southern compatriots, the more he loved and felt proud of their outstanding revolutionary heroism. Day after day, night after night, he would listen to the breath and foot-steps of the South Vietnamese revolution. Overjoyed, he acclaimed the concerted armed uprisings spreading from Ben Tre, and the birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on December 20, 1960.

Hugging the first delegates of the South Viet Nam NFL to come up to the North in October 1962, Uncle Ho choking with emotion told them : *The image of beloved South Viet Nam is here deep in my heart...*

President Ho Chi Minh highly appreciated the *Mậu Thân Tết* (1968) offensives and concerted uprisings by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces : *These are valiant feats of arms which shake the United States of America and the five continents,* he said.

In 1968, the Inter-Conference of the South Viet Nam NFL and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces decided to convene the *Congress of the South Vietnamese People's Representatives.* The Congress proclaimed the instauration of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the formation of the *Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on June* 6, 1969. The South Vietnamese revolution made another step forward. The formation of the VNANDPF was warmly hailed by President Ho Chi Minh.

Uncle Ho closely watched every political and military event of our struggle. Wrote General Vo Nguyen Giap in his book *President Ho Chi Minh, a talented strategist :* Day and night, Uncle Ho followed South Viet Nam's feats of arms in all the theatres of operations. The last time he heard report on them was then to learn of South Viet Nam's victories too. He enthusiastically praised : *Our Southern compatriots are the first to resist. Their political awareness is very high. The liberation fighters strike very hard, very cleverly and win everywhere.* And he recommended : *The US aggressors are defeated : the thing is clear. But they still nurture cruel schemes. Our fighters and people must fight the US to quit and the puppets to topple, till the complete liberation of South Viet Nam.*

SOUTH VIET NAM completely liberated, the Fatherland re-unified, North and South united under the same roof : that is the most ardent aspirations, the iron-like determination, the absolute faith of President Ho Chi Minh and of our entire people. He had seen the ineluctable victory of our patriotic war. As early as in 1959 when the US-paid butcher Ngo Dinh Diem dragged about his guillotine all over South Viet Nam to decapitate the patriots, President Ho said that the revolution there continued forging ahead, no reactionary or fascist forces whatever could impede its march. Having disposed of Diem, the Pentagon waged a 'special war.' In 1961, President Ho made an appraisal of that special war : *The present conjuncture in South Viet Nam testifies clearly to the inevitable failure of the US imperialists.* He further pointed out : *Their special war is going bankrupt in South Viet Nam, it will fail anywhere in the world : that is the universal significance of the patriotic struggle carried out by our Southern countrymen, with regard to the national liberation movement all over the world.*

BECAUSE he had not had the opportunity to come and see us in the South, he all the more loved and thought of us, and we all the more love and think of him. As the image of beloved South Viet Nam was deep in the heart of Uncle Ho, the image of Uncle Ho remains engraved in the mind and soul of every patriotic Southerner. Our most cherished wish was to see him some day here in this country clear of the Yankee aggressors.

Uncle Ho has passed away, leaving our entire people in untold bereavement. But we do know how to turn our sorrow into revolutionary deeds by devoting all our moral and material forces to discharge the noble task assigned us by Uncle Ho : to fight the Yanks to quit and the puppets to topple. The resounding exploits recorded by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in January 1973 are proof of our resolve. Together with our kith and kin in the North we have compelled the US imperialists to sign the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam. In these days of great victory for the whole nation, South Viet Nam more acutely misses Uncle Ho, the organizer of all the victories of the Vietnamese revolution. At the moment when the US-Thieu, in disregard of the Paris Agreement, are fielding troops to nibble at, shell and bomb, the liberated area, refuse to return the political prisoners and seek to liquidate them secretly, while suppressing all democratic liberties in the South, President Ho Chi Minh's image shines with all its splendour in the heart of every patriotic Southerner, from the cities to the Central High Plateaux, in Thieu's hells-on-earth or in concentration camps. Penned up in a strategic hamlet, an old montagnard kept tightly a picture of Uncle Ho in his hand, and before dying told his children and grand children to follow President Ho's path till their last days. A little boy risking his own life to rescue a cadre fell under the enemy bullets, shouting : *Long live Uncle Ho !* A young South Vietnamese girl fearlessly faced the firing squad and defied it by saying : *President Ho is in my heart !*

President Ho Chi Minh has brought along to the South Vietnamese the light, the strength, the courage and the faith which help them score splendid exploits. The 17 million South Vietnamese united as an iron block, are determined to foil any attempt to impose a US neo-colonialist regime on South Viet Nam. We are pressing Nixon and Thieu for the serious and full implementation of every clause of the Paris Agreement.

The spirit of national reconciliation and concord materialized all along Uncle Ho's life and struggle, has become a redoutable weapon in the hands of the South Vietnamese now battling against the enemy machiavelian manoeuvres.

KHA DINH

April 1973

A MONTH OF CONTINUOUS SUCCESS IN CAMBODIA

IN April 1973, the Cambodian armed forces and people fought fierce and successful battles and pushed the enemy into a desperate situation. "All communication lines leading to the capital have been cut off", "the inhabitants have lost all confidence in the government", "the Phnom Penh army is disintegrating," "the US air force has proved to be ineffective"... reported Western correspondents.

All roads and waterways cut off, Phnom Penh isolated

As they had got control of the battlefield since previous months, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces (CNLAF) made a series of violent attacks on all communication lines, crippling all the enemy supply system, despite violent strikes of the US air force.

On Highway 1, they occupied a long stretch of road from Prek Yuon to Kbal Salang and isolated Neak Luong base and the town of Svey Rieng.

On Road 2, they flattened a dozen posts defending the enemy communication system from Chambak to Takeo and Prey Sandec to South Viet Nam frontier.

On Road 3, they captured many posts on the sections from Tram Khnar to Angta Som and from Kampot to Nheng Nhang.

On Road 4, they overran many posts and gained control of the road section from Stoeng Chhay to Veal Renh ; on April 20 they destroyed 46 enemy military vehicles on this road.

Road 5, called the " rice route " connecting Battambang of Phnom Penh, and Road 6 linking Phnom Penh to Tangkok, had many sections destroyed.

Especially on the section of the Mekong river from Neak Luong to South Viet Nam frontier, US and Saigon river convoys supplying Phnom Penh came under searing fire : recently of a convoy of 19 ship, only 5 were able to reach the capital (*Reuter*, April 8). After the onset on Chorny Choray base on April 4, in which Lon Nol's 2nd Regiment, 1800-strong, was put out of action (980 captured including a lieutenant colonel) and a rescue operation by 40 war vessels from Neak Luong was foiled, the CNLAF completely sealed off this important supply line.

The quislings have been stranded in Phnom Penh and many other towns and townlets, stricken by a great shortage of foodstuffs, ammunition and fuel and their already weakened resistance forces have further declined.

Many towns and urban centres liberated, enemy's clearing operations beaten off

From siege-laying, the Cambodian liberation fighters shifted over to the offensive and occupation of many urban centres and key positions.

On April 8, they captured Angta Som, a strategic position on Road 3 ; in this remarkable battle, 3 battalions and 2 companies of Lon Nol's army were completely wiped out.

On April 17, they occupied the town of Kep. According to *UPI*, the "Red Khmers" (the patriotic armed forces) engaged their adversaries in a hand-to-hand fight and won hands down despite B.52 bombings.

On April 19, Takeo, an important town on Road 2, near the Mekong river, was entirely liberated.

On April 22, the patriotic forces levelled Kompong Kantuot, completely liberated the district capital of Kandal Steung lying on the crossroads of Roads 2 and 3.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian patriotic forces overran nearly all the 30 enemy positions defending Takeo, 15 posts in Samrong Thom district (Kompong Speu); 17 posts in Kampot province, etc.; they fought off all the enemy operations aimed at recapturing the lost areas at Setbo, Kompong Kantuot, Kampot and clearing strategic roads 1, 5...

Thus many key positions in the adverse defence line, already dangerously exposed, were stormed chiefly as the Southeast and Southwest fronts.

Phnom Penh defence line breached, Pochentong airbase bombarded twice in two days

After blotting out the enemy posts at Angtalek, Thmat Pong, Setbo, Siem Reap, Kompong Kantuot, the patriotic forces rushed unchecked toward Phnom Penh and hammered at the enemy from all sides. With the assistance of the guerillas who were very active at Beung Preyap, Chom Chao, Prey Svay, Chak Angre, and the surroundings of Takman, and even attacked the enemy war vessels at Chak Angre Grom nearly two miles from downtown Phnom Penh, (right of April 25), the Cambodian liberation armed forces liberated Mot Krasat and Prek Luong, on the left bank of the Mekong river (respectively 8 and 5km from Phnom Penh). On April 28 and 29, they broke through the solid defence belt around Phnom Penh and got control of many areas in Mat Krasat Knong, Aray Kossat, etc. On the same night, they bombarded Pochentong airbase twice, knocking out 200 enemy troops, setting on fire 21 aircraft, heavily damaging 15 others, and destroying many barracks and a great quantity of military equipment. With the noose tightening around them, the quislings were in dire straits. Phnom Penh was acutely short of electricity, running water and rice and becoming more and more insecure. Lon Nol's Cabinet had to resign and his clique found themselves in a state of confusion and disintegration.

All US measures to save the situation prove futile

In face of this predicament, the Americans hurriedly built an airlift, increased the number of sorties of strategic and tactical planes from 40 to 220 (from 60 to 100 by B.52s), gave orders to the Saigon troops to invade Cambodia and egged on the Thai authorities to send troops to the rescue of Lon Nol. But all these measures were of no avail. Lon Nol's army proved to be completely incapable of fulfilling the strategic missions entrusted to it by the US: defence of urban centres, protection and clearing of communication lines, support of the rural pacification plan. Lon Nol's difficulties in the military, political and economic field were increasing.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian liberation armed forces and people showed themselves to be in finer and finer fettle in the course of the fighting, and more signal gains will certainly be made by them.

NHU NAM

Here and There

HOME TRUTH

A foreign source reported that on May 7, 1973, General Idi Amin, Uganda's President, wrote to Mr Nixon as follows: "While your internal affairs like the Black Americans' condition, the war in Viet Nam, the Watergate affair are crying for a solution, you are meddling in Uganda's business."

After stigmatizing the infamous part of I.T.T. in subversive activities against the Allende Government, he exposed Nixon's continued aggression against Viet Nam, use of US tax-payers' money for the purchase of arms to massaccre other peoples and concluded : "The economic and military might and political muscle boasted by the US does not give it the right to impose its will on under-developed nations."

BARGAINING

Under the strong conjugated pressure of the Congress for Mr Nixon's appointment of a special commissioner, non-member of the government to investigate the Watergate scandal — in order to preclude the White House control on the inquiry — the US President had to come round on May 7, but required previous Congressional endorsement of Defense Secretary Richardson's transfer to the office of Attorney General. The move, commented the *Washington Post* on May 8, was aimed at securing the latter position for his man before naming the special commissioner. But the US legislators were not to be taken in by such a stratagem. So they insisted that the "independent" prosecutor be chosen first.

Representatives Morse and Bella Abzug announced that they would table a resolution providing a legal basis to the investigation to permit eventual proceedings against Nixon.

OBSTINACY

Mr Nixon's attachment to Richardson is explained by the latter's active role in his smear and intimidation campaign.

Hasn't he for example declared to the Senate that US bombings would go on in Cambodia as long as a cease-fire was not achieved there, in defiance of the opposition of many Democratic and Republican senators. His argument : the fighting continued because North Viet Nam did not respect Cambodia's neutrality. And as the hostilities went on, the US President had the right "under the Paris Agreement" (sic) to take any step to bring the conflict to an end. And he followed this up with threats against Viet Nam.

US rulers have been seeking a "juridical basis" for their stepped-up aggression in Cambodia, witnessed the State Secretary's 13-page speech before the Senate on the "constitutional" character of US bombing in Cambodia. But Senator E. Muskie retorted that what the US was doing there was politically, constitutionally and legally indefensible, to the cheers of most legislators from both parties.

A TRENCHANT INDICTMENT

If in mathematics accumulation of zeros produces no value, in everyday life, one cannot generate monstruosities ex-nihilo either, so believe common mortals. But life is not so simple. So undeniable evidence is needed if one wants to give the lie to the thief crying stop thief. That is what the DRVN has done with its *White Book* of May 7, 1973 on the 90 days of implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

This withering indictment gives a comprehensive picture of the US-Saigon offences and manoeuvres in their systematic breaking of the accord, immediately after and even before its signing. A long list of deliberate violations makes clear US - Saigon responsibility for the present tension in South Viet Nam and Indochina.

So the i's have been dotted and the t's crossed. The DRVN is determined to have the Paris Agreement, outcome of its long and grim battle for independence and freedom, duly respected.

HUONG NAM

A mounting revolutionary trend

THERE has lately been mention of certain developments on the world political stage. Those are far-reaching events occurring since late last year, and clearly indicating something new in the making.

In highly developed capitalist countries — for long strongholds of imperialist forces — such as Western Europe and Japan, a so-called "westward trend" has obviously emerged.

An unmistakable sign of this was the victory of the leftist forces in the election to the Japanese Lower House. The Communist Party won 38 seats (and 10.51 per cent of votes) against 14 in 1969, i.e. almost three times as many. The Socialist Party obtained 28 more seats. Political observers regarded the returns of the December 1972 election as a marked headway of the democratic, peace and progressive forces in Japan, and a tremendous setback of the reactionary forces represented by the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party. In analysing the said returns, one should not overlook the fact that the LDP had dreamt of a more comfortable majority by dismissing the Parliament one year before its term. One should equally take into account the fact that the *zaibatzu* Japan's greatest magnates' families, had lavishly financed Takuei Tanaka's election campaign with some 50 million. The magnitude of such an effort of the rightist forces brought out into relief the significance of their opponent's success.

In Europe one has witnessed a similar political phenomenon. The reactionary forces in the German Federal Republic represented by the Christian Democratic Party were soundly defeated in the election held late last year, which one again demonstrated that the people in Western Germany definitely rejected the revanchist policy prevailing for a long period after World War II. The Social Democratic Party owed its victory to such changes in Bonn's absurd demands as the legal liquidation of the German Democratic Republic and the revision of the present borders of several European countries. More striking was the gain of the alliance of the French Communist Party and Socialist Party in the March election this year. The fact that the majority of the voters supported the leftist forces did not merely mean that they kept expecting immediate, urgent changes but that they wanted great and long-range ones, which had been advocated in the common program of the alliance. Therefore the success of the leftist forces has marked a significant alteration in the political attitude of the French.

MEANWHILE, newly-independent countries have affirmed their determination to carry on their anti-imperialist and anti-neo-colonialist policy with a view to completing and strengthening their political and economic independence. An outstanding advance of this tendency was the results of the March 7, 1973 election in the People's Republic of Bangla Desh. Standing for national independence, for a democratic and prosperous life for the people, Prime Minister Rahman's Awami People's League secured 291 of the 300 seats in the National Assembly. This means that the people reposed absolute confidence in their leaders who have aptly chosen to put their country on the path of independence, democracy and economic development.

In Chile the plots of the rightist factions to overthrow the government of the People's Solidarity League through election have come to a flop. Aided and abetted by US imperialism, those factions joined forces with the resolve to win a two-third majority in the National Assembly, with which to oust "constitutionally" President Allende's progressive government and thereby reverse the revolutionary process in Chile. But the labouring people and democratic forces, relevantly responded, by giving the PSL an unprecedented majority of votes for the past twenty years in that country.

The people of other Latin American countries have also recorded consequential successes in the shaping of an independent economy and, on this basis, a gradual shedding of their dependence upon imperialist powers. This trend has not only been displayed by the masses but more and more governments as well. In March and April this year, three times the US overall sway was hit at by various governments in the Western Hemisphere. First, in the United Nations where many of them backed Panama's claim to its sovereignty over the canal zone. Second, at the economic convention of American countries, there was unanimous objection to economic inequality in their relations with the US and demand that they be revised. Third, at the Organization of American States, all of the 21 member nations denounced US domination and moved a thorough recast of the body.

Unity and united action to strengthen their fight against imperialism and neo-colonialism has become common occurrence in those countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America that used to be or still are under the thumb of American capital.

THE break-away tendency from the US orbit is also gaining momentum in such former satellites of Uncle Sam as Australia and New Zealand. Their conservative administrations, which toed US line in the Far East, especially in Korea and Viet Nam, and in the SEATO, have been ousted. Their Labour Parties won the elections thanks to their platforms opposing outside economic domination and favouring a more independent foreign policy. Right after defeating his opponent, Australia's LP leader Whitlam stated that his country would no longer be a satellite of the US and, regarding Viet Nam, he made it clear that Australia would end all military involvement.

Another trend in the world which commands attention is that to consolidate or establish diplomatic and trade relations with the socialist countries, with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam despite American pressure. This can also be seen in "allies" of the US.

The aforesaid events have been occurring simultaneously and clearly enough, in conjunction with the resistance efforts of the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples against US aggression. The unparalleled setbacks sustained by Yankee imperialism in the military, political and diplomatic fields in Viet Nam and Indochina have seriously weakened its capabilities as an international gendarme as well as the strength of its client regimes around the world. A Spanish paper wrote:

"The gallant struggle of the Vietnamese people is a decisive factor in the profound change in the world balance of forces, and erosion and fissure of military blocs, some of which like the SEATO have fallen apart. Differences inside the imperialist system have been exacerbated. The increasing political and diplomatic isolation of the American warmongers are regarded as an aftermath of US aggression in Indochina. After its defeat in Viet Nam the US imperialists' role of an international gendarme on behalf of reactionary factions against the national-liberation struggle has become much more difficult than before."

Thus what is new on the world political stage at present is the revolutionary trend, the strong, steady and far-reaching advance of progressive forces and the grave setbacks of reactionary forces headed by US imperialism. That is a lesson that Uncle Sam should learn from his aggression and intervention in Indochina and other areas of this planet.

in brief

• In his May Day speech at Moscow's Red Square, L. Brejnev, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union declared: "The war in Viet Nam has ended. The Soviet Union has persistently and unceasingly struggled for its conclusion. With powerful moral and material support from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and the solidarity of all the progressive forces in the world, the Vietnamese patriots have victoriously upheld their just cause of freedom and independence."

• In an impressive meeting sponsored at the National Theatre in Berlin by the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Council of Ministers of the GDR for the 28th anniversary of the victory over German fascism, Hermann Axen, Secretary of the Central Committee of the SUPG, said: "The heroic sons and daughters of the Vietnamese land have inflicted a heavy and deeply felt setback on the imperialist rule, in their unyielding fight for their fundamental national and social rights... Our slogan is: Solidarity with Viet Nam now is more opportune than ever before".

• In celebration of International Labour Day, the Association of Young Artists in Norway organized an "Artistic Lottery" to express their solidarity with, and support for, the Vietnamese. As a result, 75,000 Kroners have been contributed to the reconstruction fund of liberated South Viet Nam.

• On the initiative of the Support Viet Nam Committee of Jurists more than 200 lawyers and law professors in France signed an appeal urging the Saigon administration to return all the political prisoners still detained in South Viet Nam.

• On May 2, at a reception for the Chargés d'Affaires of the Republic of South Viet Nam and of the DRVN, Chilean President S. Allende said: "Support to Viet Nam is an expression of the will and sentiment of the Chilean people. We are increasingly aware that those who have been falling in Viet Nam have been also making the supreme sacrifice for the peoples of Latin America and the world as a whole, and for the people of Chile in particular."

• On May Day, the Danish Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, together with other political and mass organizations of Denmark held a big meeting and parade with the participation of over 5,000 people in front of the US Embassy in Copenhagen to voice their support for the Vietnamese and other peoples in Indochina. The rally unanimously adopted a resolution condemning US-Saigon violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and urging that:

— the United States and the Saigon regime strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam;

— the Saigon administration ensure the democratic liberties of the people and put an end to its mass arrests and reprisals;

— it give adequate care to the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners and set free immediately all those still detained by it.

The participants in the meeting sang in chorus the song "Liberate South Viet Nam" and paraded through the capital's main streets.

• Recently Pakistan's Union of Democratic Women published a statement condemning the manoeuvres of the United States and the Saigon administration since the signing of the Paris Agreement. "After the Paris Agreement was signed," the statement stressed, "in the concentration camps where civilian and military personnel were held, the Saigon administration did not disseminate the Agreement and deliberately maintained a complete blackout. They have not only intensified secret murders or taken to unknown destinations patriotic and peace-loving persons but also passed the buck on to the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The Saigon administration has also launched armed attacks on the areas under the control of the PRG and killed many women and children."

• At its closing session on May 8, the session of the Presidium of the World Peace Council passed a resolution which pointed out among other things: "The World Peace Council urges the United States and the Saigon administration to implement all provisions of the Agreement, release immediately all the political prisoners and civilians still under custody in the prisons in South Viet Nam, ensure democratic liberties of the South Vietnamese people and end immediately all inroads into the areas under the control of the RSVN PRG."

The Palestinians' undefeatable cause

THE whole world has been following with grave concern the developments in the Middle East, particularly the alarming incidents in Lebanon.

As every one is aware, on May 2, Lebanese troops set up check posts at the gate of a Palestinian refugees' camp in the suburbs of Beirut and started a wave of attacks. After that, negotiations for a cease-fire were staged simultaneously with assaults on Palestinian civilians and guerillas. On May 3, in defiance of the joint appeal for a cessation of the hostilities, Lebanese planes rocketed and machine-gunned Palestinian guerilla positions. On May 7, only a few hours after the conclusion of the cease-fire, Lebanese heavy artillery pounded Palestinian refugees' camps. The onslaughts went on on the two following days with heavy guns, tanks, jets and helicopters, which inflicted many casualties.

Public attention has been commanded by other events connected with those military actions. On May 8, the Lebanese Prime Minister resigned and the President appointed a general to form another cabinet, a move interpreted by an Israeli paper as a certain indication that the Lebanese were bent on mounting major operations against the guerillas. On May 9, Israel's fire-eating ruling clique did a lot of sabre-rattling, threatening to intervene if Israel's security was jeopardized (Dayan, Israel's Defence Minister), foreboding kept-up hostilities in Lebanon and no peace for Beirut (Israel's Chief of Staff). Meanwhile US 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean was put on the alert, and many foreign Marines were reported to be seen in Beirut on the night of May 7 (*Palestine Radio*). The newspaper *Tel Aviv* made known on May 10 that the Lebanese government had requested US intervention in case of clashes between Lebanon and Syria and that the US was considering possible counteractions to eventual Syrian interference. The US authorities would send light arms to Lebanon if the latter's troops ran short of them in continued fighting or in a deteriorating position, *AFP* reported.

An all-compassing glance at the present conjuncture immediately reveals that Lebanon's ultra-rightist regime reiterating "Jordan's September 1970 affair" to help the US scheme to stamp out the Palestinian resistance movement. The dastardly air strikes at Palestinian refugees' camps are wholly unjustifiable atrocities.

The Palestinian-blood-stained hand of the US imperialists and Israeli aggressors is obvious in those horrors. The latter's large-scale offensives on South Lebanon and commando raids on Beirut and on April 9, one still remembers with a sense of shock, have taken a toll of some guerilla leaders and intimidated the Lebanese rulers into restricting and preventing the Palestinian patriots' activity. The Lebanon-Palestine conflict has been viciously fomented to exacerbate the dissensions between the Arab and Palestinian peoples and between the former themselves and emasculate their struggle against the Israeli aggressors and the US imperialists.

The behaviour of the Lebanese rightist radicals who toe the US and Israeli line has been strongly criticized by all the Arab countries and progressive opinion at home.

The South Vietnamese people share the indignant feeling of progressive mankind and the Arab world's public opinion and urge an end to all atrocities against the Palestinian people and partisans. We are convinced that the Lebanese incident will throw a more lurid light on the US and its agents' shady intrigues and enhance the Palestinian and Arab peoples' watchfulness and militant solidarity for the sake of the triumph of their just cause.

the third world in effervescence

THAILAND :

In the March 13 — April 3, 1973 period, the patriotic forces of Thailand, in concert with the people of the four provinces of Phitsanuloch, Loi, Phetsabun and Nan sprang mounting repeated assaults and ambushes, killing or wounding 110 government troops, shot down or damaged two war planes and destroyed five military vehicles including two armoured cars.

On April 8, a platoon of the Thai patriotic forces attacked a storage of building materials in Nake district, Nakhon Phanom province, burning three bulldozers worth more than 100,000 US dollars.

PALESTINE :

In a communiqué, the command of the Palestinian revolutionary forces made known that on April 10, the Palestinian guerillas mounted a daring assault on various army camps of the Israeli aggressors and a tank park near village Cap Alma on the Golan Height. After crossing enemy mine fields and dodging heavy defence lines Palestinian guerillas opened heavy gun fire on enemy posts, killing many Israeli troops and destroying a number of military vehicles.

On April 19 and 22, in an ambush against an enemy patrol on the Golan Height and west of the Jordan river, they destroyed three military vehicles, killing all the occupants.

THE PHILIPPINES :

Speaking on the national television network on April 24, 1973, Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos admitted that in the first two weeks of February, the Philippine liberation army had knocked out nearly one hundred government troops, liberated at least five townships and many villages in Cottabato (Southern Philippines).

Pretexting fierce fighting, the reactionary ruling circles in the Philippines forced nearly one million people out of their homes and fields to resettle elsewhere.

GUINEA (Bissau) :

On April 9, the African Independence Party of Guinea and Cape Verde issued a communiqué, saying that in the three days of March 22, 24 and 25, 1973, the patriotic armed forces of Guinea (Bissau) in a series of actions destroyed many important arms stores, levelled many barracks, and killed a great number of government troops. On April 6, the anti-aircraft forces of the liberation army scored their greatest achievement so far by shooting down five enemy planes in a single day on the northern front, including three Dornie DO-27s and two Harvard T.6s, killing all men onboard.

PERU :

On May 7, the Peruvian government headed by President H.V. Alravado decided to nationalize the fishing and fish processing enterprises of the American capitalists. Since it came to power in October 1969, the progressive government of President Alvarado has taken a number of measures aimed at placing the economy in service of the great majority of the Peruvian people and restricting the exploitation of capitalist firms.

The American bosses of those firms had in fact resorted to many tricks to slow down their operation, such as with holding the payment of taxes to the Peruvian government, thus considerably lowering the productivity of these branches, in an attempt to block the development of the independent economy of Peru. It was in this context that the Peruvian government nationalized those industries.

MEXICO :

On May 4, the "People's Revolutionary Armed Forces" of Mexico kidnapped the US General Consul in Guadalahara city and declared that they would free him only after the Mexican government had released thirty progressive militants under detention and granted them safe-conducts to Cuba.

The Mexican authorities have complied with this demand and the thirty prisoners have been safely flown to Havana.

ANGOLA :

On April 16, the People's Liberation Front of Angola published a communiqué making known that on April 3, the Angolan people's liberation army opened artillery fire, destroying many barracks of the Portuguese colonialists in Mossico district, and killing a number of troops.

Earlier, the Angolan liberation forces had wiped out 131 Portuguese colonialists and captured a quantity of arms and food in Kuando region.

MOZAMBIQUE :

On March 15 and 16, in Tete and Niassa districts, the patriotic armed forces of Mozambique shot down two aircraft of the Portuguese colonialists including one jet fighter.

Of late the patriotic armed forces of Mozambique have operated deep in the centre of Zambezi where lie many important mines of the Portuguese colonialists.

LATIN AMERICA :

— The Second Consultative Conference of twenty Latin American Ministers of Energy and Oil held in Quito (Ecuador) from April 2 to 5, 1973, unanimously adopted a document reasserting the right of all nations to protect, preserve and exploit in the most appropriate manner the mineral and maritime resources of their countries.

The ministers protested against any pressure on the countries which are carrying out a legitimate struggle to defend their sovereignty.

The document also stressed the necessity to continue united action in the common program aimed at defending the natural resources of each country, especially the sources of energy, and utilizing them for developing an independent society and economy. An energy commission for Latin America has been created.

In the last days of March 1973, also in Quito, the 15th session of the Economic Commission of Latin American countries held the United States responsible for the economic lag of the Latin American countries.

— Recently, the 4th Conference of the Ministers of Education of Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia and Bolivia meeting in Caracas (Venezuela) approved a statement urging an end to the dependence on the United States in the training of specialists for the national industries and stressing the importance of urgent measures to eradicate illiteracy among the people as well as of democratic reforms in education in Latin America.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION